

06 REMARKABLE COINCIDENCES OF BIBLE PROPHECY AND FIRST CENTURY EVENTS

1. PROPHECY: Jerusalem was identified as the Great City slated for soon destruction. (Rev. 11:8, 18:10)*

COINCIDENCE: Jerusalem was captured and destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

2. PROPHECY: In approximately AD 30, Jesus warned the people to leave Judea when they saw Jerusalem surrounded by armies. Lk. 21:22

COINCIDENCE: Jerusalem was surrounded by the Syrian Roman legion in AD 66 which inexplicably withdrew after less than a week. This gave the people who believed Jesus, time to get out of the city before the war started in earnest a few months later. Josephus reported that after this showing of the Syrian Roman legion, "...Jews swam away from the city, as from a ship when it was going to sink." (Josephus, Wars 2:20:1)

3. PROPHECY: Jesus said that Jerusalem's enemies would cast up a bank, surround her and hem her in on every side. Luke 19:43

COINCIDENCE: Roman General Titus raised banks and encompassed the entire city of Jerusalem with a wall and "all hope of escaping was cut off." (Josephus, Wars 5:12:3)

4. PROPHECY: Jesus said Jerusalem would be trodden down by the Gentiles and the people killed and taken into slavery. Luke 21:31

COINCIDENCE: Josephus, Jewish historian, describes the slaughter and slavery of the Jews in the Roman conquest in Wars book 6.

5. PROPHECY: 3 ½ years were prophesied for the ceasing of sacrifices, shattering of the power of the holy people, and trampling by the Gentiles (Dan. 9:27, 12:7, 12:11, Rev. 11:2).

COINCIDENCE: From the beginning of Rome's effort to put down the Jewish revolt, to the destruction of the Temple, was 3 ½ years (spring 67 to fall 70 AD). This ended the Old Covenant.

6. PROPHECY: Jesus said the gospel of the kingdom would be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end would come. (Matt. 24:14).

COINCIDENCE: Paul said that the gospel had been preached to the whole world (Col 1:3, Col. 1:23) by the time of his writing Colossians in 60's AD. The destruction of the temple ended the Old Covenant, the priesthood, sacrificial system, etc. ushering in the spiritual Kingdom of God.

7. PROPHECY: Revelation 16:16 states that armies assembled for battle at Armageddon.**

COINCIDENCE: After Emperor Nero ordered the war against the Jews, Vespasian, Commander of the Roman army, assembled Roman legions and multiple auxiliary forces at Ptolemais, on the edge of the Plain of Megiddo (Armageddon)—60,000 men strong—to march into Galilee and then into Judea.

8. PROPHECY: The harlot was sitting on seven hills. Rev. 17:9

COINCIDENCE: The Jews involved in persecuting and killing Christians, used the favor and legal system of Rome, famous for its seven hills, to carry out the persecution of Christians (see Acts of the Apostles) until the Roman emperor ordered the campaign against the Jews in 67 AD. (See also the trial of Jesus in John 18-19)

9. PROPHECY: Revelation, written around AD 65, reports of seven kings, "five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come and when he comes, he must remain only a little while." Rev. 17:10.

COINCIDENCE: Rome had had 5 past Caesars when Revelation was written: Julius, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, and Claudius. Nero (ruled 54-68 AD) was the current 6th Caesar upon the writing of Revelation. Galba was the 7th and ruled only 7 months.

10. PROPHECY: The beast is sometimes collective (Roman Empire) and sometimes an individual (emperor) with the number of 666. (Rev. 13:18)

COINCIDENCE: First century Hebrew spelling of Nero Caesar was Nrwn Qsr which totals 666 using numerical equivalences. Jastrow's lexicon of the Talmud contains this very spelling with the numeral valuation of N = 50, R = 200, W = 6, N = 50, Q = 100, S = 60, R = 200. (reference: preteristarchive.com)

11. PROPHECY: "...the beast... will hate the prostitute, and will make her desolate, and will make her naked, and will eat her flesh, and will burn her utterly with fire." Rev. 17:16

COINCIDENCE: The former cordial and collaborative relationship of Jewish leadership with Rome broke down when Jewish rebels revolted and the Roman emperor ordered aggression against them in AD 67-70. Jewish rebel cities were captured and burned.

12. PROPHECY: The beast had a mortal wound that was healed. Rev. 13:3, 13:12

COINCIDENCE: In AD 68-69, the Roman Empire was wracked with civil war, insurrection, and instability with four emperors dying violently in quick succession. Roman historian, Tacitus, feared the empire would collapse, but it was "healed" under the moderating hand of the new Emperor Vespasian (AD 69-79).

13. PROPHECY: Hailstones, weighing a talent, came down out of heaven upon men. Rev. 16:21.

COINCIDENCE: Historian Josephus reports of stones hurled by Roman engines over the walls of Jerusalem. "Now, the stones that were cast were of the weight of a talent and were carried two furlongs and farther. The blow they gave was no way to be sustained, not only by those that stood first in the way, but by those that were beyond them for a great space." (Josephus, "The Wars of the Jews" 5.6.3)

14. PROPHECY: With regard to the temple, Jesus stated that not one stone would be left on another. Mt. 24:2

COINCIDENCE: Jewish historian Josephus reported that, after the temple was set on fire and the gold and silver plated walls and adornments melted, the soldiers dug up the foundation stones to recover the precious metals. (Josephus, "The Wars of the Jews")

15. PROPHECY: Revelation describes locusts/scorpions with heads of gold, hair like a woman's, scale-like iron breastplates, and tails with the power to kill like scorpions...Rev. 9:7-10

COINCIDENCE: Roman battle attire included brass helmets some with feather-like adornments, scaly breastplates and spears or swords with the power to kill. Their attire might resemble exoskeletons of scorpions and their number like locusts or perhaps the barrenness they left was like locusts' (See soldier attire on web).

16. PROPHECY: The Great City [Jerusalem] was split into three parts. (Rev. 16:19)

COINCIDENCE: Jewish historian Josephus, reports that, for a time, there were 3 factions of Jewish rebels in Jerusalem fighting each other to gain the ascendancy. They were led by John of Gischala, Eleazar ben Simon, and Simon bar Giora. (AD 68-69)

17. PROPHECY: In Revelation, Jesus said he was coming soon (Rev. 22:7, 22:10, 22:12). N.T. writers used "coming of the Lord" and "day of the Lord" interchangeably (II Peter 3:10, II Peter 1:16). The "Day of the Lord" terminology was used in the O.T. as Yahweh coming in judgment using a warring nation against an errant nation. (Zeph. 1:14, Amos 5:18, Joel 1:15)

COINCIDENCE: Believing Jews would have understood the "coming of the Lord" as the use of the Roman warring nation against the errant nation of Israel.

18. PROPHECY: Revelation is full of prophesies of war, fire, destruction, suffering, blood, famine, and massive death.

COINCIDENCE: Some see Jewish historian Josephus's writing as an unintended extended commentary of the bloody events of the book of Revelation. (See books 3 to 7 of Jewish Historian Josephus's, The Wars of the Jews—approx. 130 pages).

19. PROPHECY: Paul told the Thessalonians that a man of lawlessness would set himself up in the temple of God and usurp God's authority before the day of the Lord arrived.

COINCIDENCE: In AD 66, the powerful general of the temple (Eleazar ben Ananias) set about making war preparations from the temple and denied Yahweh worship to gentiles, all clearly against the law of God. Within months, national judgment i.e. the day of the Lord, was upon Israel starting in Galilee. (Wars, 2:14:1-5)

*Jerusalem = Great City = Harlot = "Babylon" = "Sodom" = "Egypt" (Rev. 11:8, 17:5, 17:18, 18:10)

**also known as Plain of Megiddo, Plain of Esdraelon, Plain of Jezreel, etc.

Further study: Samuel G. Dawson's Revelation Realized, Don K. Preston, William Bell Jr., Daniel Rogers, Michael Sullivan. Also: Josephus, "The Wars of the Jews": <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2850/2850-h/2850-h.htm>